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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN FINANCE - REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONS ON PROGRAM BUDGET SECTION 21: PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

REF: USUN 5380

1. DEPT. CONTINUES TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY IN SPECIFIC TERMS THE PROPOSED OPI INCREASE FROM 25.8 MILLION DOLLARS (REVISED 1974/75 BUDGET) TO 31 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 1976/77 OR 17 PERCENT. (THE INCREASE OVER THE INITIAL 1974/75 BUDGET IS 7.5 MILLION DOLLARS OR 26 PER-CENT). JUSTIFICATION, MOREOVER, BECOMES INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT WHEN THE TOTAL INFORMATION RESOURCES ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, WHICH ACABQ CHAIRMAN PUTS AT OVER 46 MILLION DOLLARS.

2. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT OPI PERFORMS WELL SOME USEFUL BASIC PR FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS THE ISSUANCE OF PRESS
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RELEASES, THE UN MONTHLY CHRONICLE, AND THE YEARBOOK OF

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THE UNITED NATIONS. HOWEVER, INSOFAR AS THE BULK OF OPI OPERATIONS ARE CONCERNED, U.S. POSITION HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THAT UN IMAGE WORLDWIDE HAS AND WILL REFLECT THE

EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN EXTENSIVE AND EXPENSIVE PR PROGRAM - WHICH UNDER SYG'S ESTIMATES WOULD COST THE U.S. TAXPAYER AT LEAST 10 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM. IN THIS CONNECTION REFERENCE IS MADE TO STATE'S 62842 AND 111160 OF 3/20/75 AND 5/13/75 RESPECTIVELY. WE NOTE IN PARTICULAR THE FYI IN STATE 62842 AS FOLLOWS: "FYI: JUSTIFICATION FOR INCREASES IN OPI PERSONNEL AND FUNDS ARE INTER ALIA TO SPREAD THE WORD OF NIEO, CERDS, ETC., ABOUT WHICH THE USG HAS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS IF NOT OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION. WE THEREFORE SEE LITTLE USE IN COOPERATING OR ACQUIESCING IN ANY MOVE TO UPGRADE UN OPI SINCE ITS PROPOSED PROGRAM DIRECTLY CONFLICTS WITH MANY US INTERESTS. END FYI."

3. NEVERTHELESS, IF MISSION IS SATISFIED THAT OPI PROGRAM FOR 1974/75 FUNDED FROM REGULAR BUDGET AS SET FORTH IN SUPPLEMENT NO. 6 (A/10006), IS FULLY DEFENSIBLE IT IS AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT THE SAME LEVEL AT 1976/77 COST (29.6 MILLION DOLLARS). ANY HIGHER LEVEL SHOULD BE OPPOSED. IN THIS CONNECTION WE BELIEVE IT IS THE VOTE NOT THE RHETORIC THAT COUNTS IN ESTABLISHING A POSITION, AND HENCE PREFER NOT TO ABSTAIN WITH AN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT. KISSINGER

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